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Mershon and Slavic Center Panel on Human Trafficking

Trafficking and Civil Society: Denial, Distress, Danger

Tuesday, January 12, 2010
4:00 p.m.
155 Jennings Hall
1735 Neil Ave., Columbus, OH 43210

Click on the links below to see streaming videos of this event. This streaming video requires Windows Media Player. If you do not have Windows Media Player, you can [download it free](#).

Part I: [Ambassador Mark P. Lagon and Yana Hashamova](#)

"The Crucial Role of Civil Society in Fighting Human Trafficking: As Much in America as the World"

"Screening Trafficking: Prudent or Perilous?"

Part II: [Marguerite Hernandez and Kristin Silver](#)

"Challenges to Combating Human Trafficking: The U.S. NGO Response"

"Fighting Human Trafficking: The Roles of Empirical Research and Citizen Activism"

If you would like to access PowerPoint presentations from this event, please contact Cheryl King at king.1172@osu.edu.

Participants

[Ambassador Mark P. Lagon](#), Executive Director and CEO of the Polaris Project and former Ambassador-at-Large and Director of the U.S. Department of State Office to Monitor and Combat Trafficking in Persons, *"The Crucial Role of Civil Society in Fighting Human Trafficking: As Much in America as the World"*

[Yana Hashamova](#), Associate Professor of Slavic and East European Languages and Literatures, Director of the Center for Slavic and East European Studies



Ambassador Mark P. Lagon
Executive Director and
CEO of the Polaris
Project



Yana Hashamova
Associate Professor of
Slavic and East European
Languages and Literatures
The Ohio State
University



Marguerite Hernandez
Ph.D. Candidate
Department of Sociology
The Ohio State University

[Marguerite Hernandez](#), Ph.D. candidate in Sociology, "*Challenges to Combating Human Trafficking: The U.S. NGO Response*"

[Kristin Silver](#), undergraduate in psychology and research assistant for the Center for Cognitive Science

Description

The U.S. Department of State estimates that 600,000 to 800,000 people are trafficked across international borders each year. Of these, 80 percent are women and children, most of whom are trafficked for the purpose of sexual exploitation. Also known as trafficking in persons, human trafficking comprises the fastest growing criminal industry in the world, based on the recruitment, harboring, and transportation of people solely for the purpose of exploitation. Every year traffickers generate billions of dollars in profits at the expense of victimizing millions of people around the world.

Despite this staggering reality, governments around the world are only beginning to address the problem. In most countries, traffickers operate with almost total impunity even in the most severe cases. A lack of awareness in the public exacerbates inaction on the part of authorities.

The **Mershon Center and the Center for Slavic and East European Studies Panel on Human Trafficking** is an interdisciplinary discussion of the realities of human trafficking and analysis of how NGO networks, government officials, and civil society as a whole can effectively work together to address and combat human trafficking. Panelists include Ohio State experts Yana Hashamova, director of the Center for Slavic and East European Studies, Marguerite Hernandez, graduate student in sociology, and Kristin Silver, undergraduate major in psychology.

This panel features Ambassador Mark P. Lagon, Executive Director and CEO of Polaris Project, a leading anti-human trafficking nonprofit organization running the primary national hotline, the National Human Trafficking Resource Center. Previously Lagon was Ambassador-at-Large and Director of the Office to Monitor and Combat Trafficking in Persons (TIP). In this capacity, he was chair of the Senior Policy Operating Group coordinating U.S. agencies domestic and global anti-trafficking policy.

As part of the panel, Ambassador Lagon will give a presentation about "The Crucial Role of Civil Society in Fighting Human Trafficking: As Much in America as the World."

Lagon is the author of *The Reagan Doctrine: Sources of American Conduct in the Cold War's Last Chapter* (Praeger, 1994). He received his Ph.D. from Georgetown University and his B.A. from Harvard University in Government.

This event is co-sponsored by the [Center for Slavic and East European](#)

[Studies](#), and the [Columbus Council on World Affairs](#).

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